

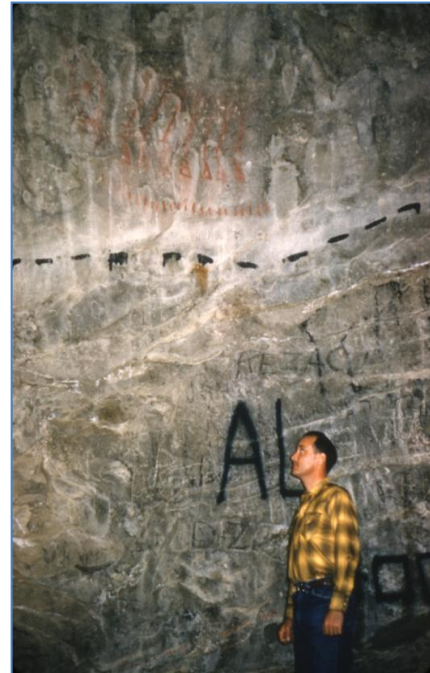
Stuart Conner, Billings

Outstanding Individual Achievement in Archaeology

Amongst archaeologists in Montana, Stu Conner is known as the guy in Billings who knows more about Montana rock art and other sites in the state than anyone else. “You should talk to Stu” is a common response to questions about the history of Montana archaeology.

A founding member of the Montana Archaeological Society and the local Billings Archaeological Society in the late 1950s, Stu is on the rolls and in the records of many organizations committed to the preservation and education of Montana’s history and prehistory. In his archaeology advocacy career, spanning over five decades, Stu Conner has served as president of MAS, state representative to the American Rock Art Research Association, co-organizer of the Pryor Mountains Archaeological Survey, and was the recipient of the Donald Crabtree Award for avocational archaeology from the national Society for American Archaeology. He also served on the Board of the Montana Historical Society from 1987 to 1993, and as its president for two years. In 2002 he received an honorary doctorate of letters in Anthropology from Montana State University in Bozeman (Go Cats!).

Through all this, it is sometimes hard to remember that Stu had a real job - as a lawyer in private practice in Billings from 1955-1986. A 1949 graduate of the



University of Montana, Missoula school of law (Go Griz!), Stu worked several years as a special agent for the FBI before becoming established in his successful law career, including a stint as city attorney for Billings from 1963-1964.



Stu's love of Montana archaeology has benefited us all. In his travels around the state he is responsible for the initial recording of more than 200 archaeological sites – many of these in conjunction with his cohorts who are known to some as the “Wild Bunch” (Stu will have to explain that). Stu is the author of nearly 40 articles, many of which appear in the ongoing journal Archaeology in Montana which he helped establish and achieve funding.

For these reasons and many more, we are honored today to recognize Stuart Conner with a 2011 Montana State Preservation Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Archaeology.